

We must have resolve to stop our enemies and support our brave troops who are fighting to defend our freedom and protect American families.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th.

AMERICA NEEDS A PLAN TO PROVIDE FOR CONTINUITY OF GOVERNMENT

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Most Americans would agree that it would be prudent to have a plan to provide for the continuity of government and the rule of law in case of a devastating terrorist attack or natural disaster, a plan to provide for the cooperation, the coordination and continued functioning of all three branches of the government.

The Bush administration tells us they have such a plan. They have introduced a little sketchy public version that is clearly inadequate and doesn't really tell us what they have in mind, but they said, don't worry; there's a detailed classified version. But now they've denied the entire Homeland Security Committee of the United States House of Representatives access to their so-called detailed plan to provide for continuity of government. They say, trust us. Trust us, the people who brought us Katrina, to be competent in the face of a disaster? Trust us, the people who brought us warrantless wiretapping and other excesses eroding our civil liberties? Trust us?

Maybe the plan just really doesn't exist and that's why they won't show it to us. I don't know. Or maybe there's something there that's outrageous. The American people need their elected representatives to review this plan for the continuity of government.

MORE GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF OUR LIVES

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, our path to energy independence is anything but that. We have become more energy dependent on foreign governments, and our own government continues to find new ways to control our lives regarding energy use. The government is in the toilet bowl control business. Now toilets must meet strict Federal regulations, but these expensive toilets must be flushed more than once to be effective.

The government now polices our washing machines. But new regulations that limit water usage are so ineffective with these new gizmos that Consumer Reports states the government machines don't get dirty clothes clean unless they're washed multiple times. So much for saving energy.

And now the government is in the light bulb police business, requiring ex-

pensive new bulbs to be used that are only made, ironically, in China. Instead of finding new ways to punish and police Americans for using energy, we should find new efficient sources of more energy.

I doubt if our forefathers fought for independence at Valley Forge just to give us an all-controlling government that demands how citizens use washing machines, light bulbs and toilet bowls. And that's just the way it is.

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 3162

(Mr. SIREs asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I rise proudly this morning to tell this Nation and the children of the State of New Jersey that this House has heard their call for help.

Yesterday's passage of H.R. 3162, the Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007, was a significant achievement for the children of working Americans throughout this country. In New Jersey alone, this legislation will maintain coverage for over 120,000 children currently enrolled in New Jersey's FamilyCare program, while also helping the State provide care for the 136,000 children currently eligible for the program but not enrolled in it. The New Jersey FamilyCare program would also be allowed to extend coverage to 126,000 young men and women who are aging out of the program but still need access to health care.

I am especially glad that the CHAMP Act will also help 80,000 of the lowest income and most wonderful adults in my State keep their coverage through this program.

Mr. Speaker, the SCHIP program that we passed yesterday has the potential to have a significant impact on improving children's health care across this Nation.

"HOLD-ON-TO-YOUR-WALLET" CONGRESS

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to speak about the Ag approps bill that is going to come before us, and the culture of tax and spend that is just running unabated in this House.

And why should we expect the Ag approps bill to be any different? Well, of course it is not any different. It is going to be more of the same; it is going to be more of the same tax and spend.

And again we see a piece of legislation that is spending more than what the President requested, which many of us think was too much in the first place; 5.6 percent more than the President requested and 5.9 percent more than last year. You know what, Mr.

Speaker? There are a lot of Americans that would like to see a 5.9 percent increase in their paycheck.

It is time for this House to get its fiscal house in order. It is time for the liberal left to stop spending the taxpayer's money. This is the "Hold-On-To-Your-Wallet" Congress. They're proving it every single day.

RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD FOR AMERICA

(Mr. INSLEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, on May 9, 1961, John F. Kennedy stood behind me and said that the U.S. was going to put a man on the moon in 10 years. That was very ambitious, but we did it. And we're going to have a similar moment of goal setting and aspirations and vision tomorrow when we vote to adopt a renewable portfolio standard for America, where we will guarantee Americans that we will have 15 percent of our electricity coming from clean, renewable sources by the year 2020.

This is something we know we can do; States are doing it, whole nations in Europe have over 20 percent clean, renewable energy today. And we should follow the spirit of Oak Ridge, Texas, which 2 months ago became the first city in the United States to have all their electricity from clean, renewable, 100 percent biodiesel. This is something the States can do for a variety of reasons. Let's have another "Apollo-John F. Kennedy" moment tomorrow when we pass the renewable portfolio standard.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY FOR MINNESOTA TRAGEDY

(Mr. AL GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the people of Minnesota and, indeed, the people of this country have suffered a great tragedy. And I think this is one of the few times when I can say that I speak for all of the Members of the House when I say that our sympathies and our desire to be of assistance is with them. We want them to know that they are not alone in this moment of tragedy.

I also want to say this, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, the House voted 225-204 to provide a health care safety net for the children in this country. This will help the children in the State of Texas, where I happen to represent the Ninth Congressional District, and we have the largest portion of uninsured children in the entire Nation.

This is the safety net that children need. Children don't decide where they're born and to what families they come. Children need health care. This will help Texas to do what it should have done when it lost \$830 million to

other States because it didn't spend CHIP funds.

Mr. Speaker, I'm grateful to the Members who voted to help children, 11 million in this country who are uninsured. I thank each of you. And our sympathies are with the people of Minnesota.

CHAMP ACT AND DEMOCRATIC EFFORTS TO ENSURE MORE CHILDREN HAVE ACCESS TO HEALTH INSURANCE

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House approved the CHAMP Act, a comprehensive health care bill that sustains and strengthens both the Children's Health Insurance Program and Medicare. In one bill, we are insuring quality health care coverage for America's seniors and children.

Under the CHAMP Act, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that 5 million children will gain health care coverage through the SCHIP program. Any time when the number of uninsured children is increasing, Congress should do everything in its power to provide health care services to more children.

The CHAMP Act strengthens the CHIP program so that we finally reach nearly every child who is eligible for health insurance. The CHAMP Act will also take care of seniors by protecting Medicare beneficiaries' access to their physicians, providing new preventive benefits, expanding programs, and assisting low-income seniors with out-of-pocket costs, and protecting rural communities' access to health care.

Mr. Speaker, by supporting the CHAMP Act, this House showed its commitment to assist this Nation's two most vulnerable groups, our children and our seniors.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3159, ENSURING MILITARY READINESS THROUGH STABILITY AND PREDICTABILITY DEPLOYMENT POLICY ACT OF 2007

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 601 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 601

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3159) to mandate minimum periods of rest and recuperation for units and members of the regular and reserve components of the Armed Forces between deployments for Operation Iraqi Freedom or Operation Enduring Freedom. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Armed Services now print-

ed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions of the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Armed Services; and (2) one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

SEC. 2. During consideration of H.R. 3159 pursuant to this resolution, notwithstanding the operation of the previous question, the Chair may postpone further consideration of the bill to such time as may be designated by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from New York is recognized for 1 hour.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I am pleased to yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER). All time yielded during consideration of the rule is for debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, Mr. Speaker, this morning I want to continue to express our great sorrow to the people of Minnesota on their tragic loss. In a way, they're almost victims of war. A Nation in perpetual war does not have the money to meet its infrastructure needs. And as we heard this morning, there are bridges that are in serious condition all over the United States. So I express my great sorrow for the families who are suffering and for all the people who have been lost.

Mr. DREIER. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. SLAUGHTER. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. DREIER. I thank my distinguished Chair for yielding. I would like to join her in extending the thoughts and prayers of every Member of this institution to those, I know at this moment there are families who are waiting, living with this moment with the uncertainty as to whether or not their loved ones have survived the tragedy in the Twin Cities.

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Last night, when our colleague, Mrs. BACHMANN, stood here to report this, it came as a huge shock. I agree completely with my colleague about the need to ensure that the bridges in our country are safe and secure as we deal with these challenges.

I thank my friend for yielding.

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Thank you, Mr. DREIER.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 601 provides for consideration of H.R. 3159, the Ensuring Military Readiness Through Stability and Predictability Deployment Policy Act of 2007, under a closed rule. The rule provides 1 hour of debate, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Armed Services. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill, except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The rule considers as adopted the Armed Services Committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The rule provides for one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, the war in Iraq has taken us into uncharted territory as a Nation and as a society. During the Vietnam war, 4 percent of the general population served in the military. During World War II, fully 12 percent of our people served. Forms of personal sacrifice and national service were to be found everywhere, planted in victory gardens or held in war bonds. Even during the Civil War, a conflict from a different age, more than one in ten Americans fought.

Never in our history has America fought a war of this magnitude, or one that is this difficult, with an entirely voluntary military force composed of only 1 percent of the general population. And while so much of what is going on in Iraq hearkens back to past conflicts, what is occurring within our society does not.

It is true that the historically high percentage of National Guard troops fighting abroad has spread the reach of this war farther than some anticipated. But for nearly all Americans the immediacy of the war has been dulled by distance. We have never been asked to sacrifice as people. We have, instead, been told to go about our lives as usual and ask merely to support the troops in a vague sense.

Within this mass of normality lies the lives of those Americans who have actually fought in Iraq, the mothers, husbands, sons, daughters and siblings who have been sent there and who have seen things that few of us can relate to or even imagine. They have been asked to fight in a conflict whose architects have largely receded from the public view, but not before the failures of these officials made themselves felt every time a soldier was forced to enter a battle without proper body armor or without a vehicle that would keep him or her safe. In a very real sense, the families of these soldiers have been asked to endure the same reality and forced to live every moment of their deployment with the fear that their loved one will be injured, or worse.

Despite it all, despite everything that the members of our military and their families have been asked to bear for year after year, the talk of what is to be done in Iraq is often clinical: We should increase troop numbers; we should lower them; we should place more troops here, send more troops